

Serial No.: 09/859,576  
Docket No.: 28951.1077A

### REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 35 and 36, as amended, remain pending.

Applicant notes and thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 35 and 36 and for acknowledging allowable subject matter in claim 6.

1. Applicant has amended claims 11 and 12 mooted the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §101.

2. Applicant has canceled claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer mooted the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) under Powell et al. U.S. Patent 5,721,788.

3. Applicant has amended claim 6 to place it into independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim, thereby placing claim 6 in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.1077). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Parkhurst', written over the firm name.

Date: December 5, 2006

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